

444-4825

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 02/22/07
HB 705

Please deliver to the House Ag Committee

Dear House Ag Committee Members,

I am writing in protest of the submittal of HB 705. Not only is this bill illegal (denial of public hearings with state staff) but it is bad news for livestock producers who are interested in source verifying their production. This will KILL any potential of developing market channels that can differentiate our production from competing sources (such as Argentina meat) As a producer I have market opportunities through value added activities such as natural or organic meat production but I will have to utilize some kind of identification system preferably that is recognized by state and federal agencies. This brings a certain level of credibility to my production system and to the marketplace. As a sheep producer I have participated in the scrapies program which is a federal identification system for sheep producers. This is the only way we will control and monitor this disease.

I strongly urge the committee to table this bill. This is not a well thought out bill and has the potential of being highly damaging to me as a sheep producer. Most importunately this bill does not help Montana agriculture. We need to concentrate on legislation that does.

Jan Tusick
Polson Montana
Natural Lamb Producer